

## Mission Statement

Through zealous and effective advocacy and legal representation to:

- protect and advance legal, human, and civil rights of persons with disabilities;
- combat and prevent abuse, neglect, and discrimination; and
- promote independence, choice, and self-determination by persons with disabilities.

## Virginia Office for Protection and Advocacy Contact Information

**1910 Byrd Avenue, Suite 5  
Richmond, Virginia 23230  
800-552-3962 (Toll-Free in Virginia)**

**(Voice and TTY)**

**804-225-2042 (Voice and TTY)**

**Fax: 804-662-7057**

**E-Mail: [general.vopa@vopa.virginia.gov](mailto:general.vopa@vopa.virginia.gov)**

**Web: [www.vopa.state.va.us](http://www.vopa.state.va.us)**

For other disability agencies, visit Virginia's  
Disability Services Agencies web site at:  
**[www.vadsa.org](http://www.vadsa.org)**

All information or service requests will be treated  
in a confidential manner.

Applicants for service or employment shall be  
afforded equal opportunity without regard to race,  
color, religion, political affiliation, national origin,  
disability, marital status, gender, or age.

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*VOPA publications are available in  
alternate format, upon request.*

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*Information about*

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## Assistive Technology (AT)



**VOPA**

**Virginia Office for  
Protection and Advocacy**

*Virginia's Protection and Advocacy System  
Serving Persons with Disabilities*

## **What Is Assistive Technology (AT)?**

Assistive Technology can be either a device or a service that helps persons with disabilities to live more independently.

## **What Is An Assistive Technology Device?**

It is any item, whether bought at a store or custom-made, that can improve or maintain the every day activities of persons with disabilities.

## **What Is An Assistive Technology Service?**

It is any service that helps persons with disabilities select the right device to use. Examples can include the modification and adaptation of the device, as well as, training yourself and your family members on the use of the device.

## **What Are Some Every Day Activities That Assistive Technology Can Help**

## **Persons With Disabilities Do On Their Own?**

- Open a kitchen drawer
- Cook a meal
- Talk on the telephone
- Read the newspaper

## **How Do I Decide Which Assistive Technology Is Right For Me?**

- Figure out your individual needs
- Decide if there is a device that will help you meet these needs independently or whether you will need someone to help you use the device
- Decide where you will use the device—at home, work, or school
- Decide how you will pay for the device

## **How Can I Pay For Assistive Technology?**

Your insurance company may pay for the assistive technology. Medicaid, the Department of Rehabilitative Services, the Assistive Technology Loan Fund

Authority, and certain charities may help you pay for the device and/or service.

## **How Can I Find Out More About Assistive Technology?**

You can call VOPA at our toll-free number (800) 552-3962 for more information.